

From: Scott Johnson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 8:46pm
Subject: Microsoft anti-trust settlement fair and just, I support 100%

The anti-trust settlement reached between Microsoft and the US Department of Justice is fair and just, and I feel it addresses the issues that led to the trial.

The states which remain participants in the anti-trust action against Microsoft are simply trying to protect companies operating within their borders, and their demands are unreasonable. I strongly urge the US Court of Appeals to recognize this and to find in favor of Microsoft against those states that choose not to accept the current settlement.

We must remember one thing above all else... Antitrust law does not allow punishment for a company simply for being a monopoly, nor does it allow punishment for a company that puts its competitors out of business through ruthless competition. Microsoft may in fact be a monopoly, but it has not abused that position (yet) by using its market dominance to unfairly price its software. Yes, it is a ruthless competitor, but that is not illegal.

The Sherman Anti-Trust Act was designed to protect consumers from companies who abuse their monopoly power to raise prices. In the last ten years, Microsoft has not significantly raised the price of Windows. Case dismissed.

Some claim that Microsoft has been raising prices, as proven by the fact that Windows pricing has remained stable while other component prices in computers have declined. This argument is ludicrous. Consumers now receive for free software they used to have to purchase separately from Windows: web browsing software, music recording software, and more.

It is rather generous of Microsoft, in my opinion, to continue to price Windows at its current level. In every other business one can think of, new features cost money. Buy a car, get a stereo, and it will cost you more than if you purchased the car alone.

Don't listen to the states. They simply represent the voice of jealousy, and they are using the courts to achieve what they could not achieve in the marketplace. The settlement is fair.

Scott Johnson